



THE FLORIDA SENATE

SENATOR JEFF ATWATER

President

Dear Governor Jindal,

In recent years, even in the face of economic prosperity, Congressional spending and the nation's debt have reached an all time high. Our leaders in Washington have departed from the principles of fiscal discipline and economic integrity that created the world's strongest economy. Unfunded mandates, insurmountable debt, and unconscionable spending threaten the foundation of personal and economic liberty upon which our nation was built.

Congress has refused to ensure our economic liberty. Therefore, the State of Florida, under Article V of the U.S. Constitution and for the reasons outlined in the attached Concurrent Resolution, is renewing its application for an Amendments Convention, to balance the budget and limit the ability of the federal government to legislate State spending.

To date, 19 States have sent applications to Congress calling for a balanced budget Amendments Convention. Today, Florida is asking you to encourage the Louisiana State Legislature to pass an application for an Amendments Convention. Our goal is to apply enough pressure so that Congress will act in lieu of an Amendments Convention. However, if Congress does not act, Florida is fully prepared to elect delegates on our behalf to attend an Amendments Convention.

The choice is clear: we take control of our destiny or it will take control of us. When the States in 1982 were only two states away from the 34 needed for a Convention, our deficit and debt was nominal compared to what it is now. The stakes are even higher today. A strong economy is the foundation on which our Republic stands. Today's threat is not just a troubled economy, but a future that deprives our children and grandchildren of their opportunity to pursue success.

The Florida Legislature is advancing a three-pronged effort for a Balanced Budget Amendment. In addition to calling for an Amendments Convention, we have called upon our Congressional leaders to sign a pledge that they will support a Balance Budget Amendment, as well as filing an advisory referendum to allow Floridians the opportunity to give a direct message to Congress. Louisiana applying for an Amendments Convention for a balanced budget would add necessary pressure to Congress. Therefore, we are asking you to encourage your State Legislature to apply for an Amendments Convention to balance the budget and limit the federal government's ability to dictate State spending.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Atwater".

Jeff Atwater
President

Enclosures